REMARKS

The final Office Action mailed January 11, 2006 has been carefully considered. Claims 15-24 are pending. Reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS

Claims 15-24 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,530,950 ("the '950 patent").

While not agreeing with this rejection, attorneys for Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) with respect to the '950 patent with the necessary fee to overcome the double patenting rejection. Common ownership of the present application and the '950 patent is established in the Terminal Disclaimer. Such Terminal Disclaimer is believed to obviate this rejection.

Claims 15-24 have also been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,653,426 ("the '426 patent").

While not agreeing with this rejection, attorneys for Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) with respect to the '426 patent with the necessary fee to overcome the double patenting rejection. Common ownership of the present application and the '426 patent is established in the Terminal Disclaimer. Such Terminal Disclaimer is believed to obviate this rejection.
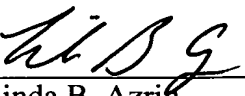
II. CONCLUSION

As the claim rejections have been overcome, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree with Applicants' position, then a personal telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 18, 2006

Gidon D. Stern   (Reg. No. 27,469)

By:

Linda B. Azriff   (Reg. No. 44,516)
JONES DAY
222 East 41st Street
New York, New York 10017
(212) 326-3939

Enclosures